

CLAIMS

We claim as our invention:

1. An input unit comprising:

a sensor which detects a displacement;

5 a plate-like main unit supporting said sensor; and

a finger support member pivotally coupled to said main unit;

said sensor, said main unit, and said finger support member defining a plate-like structure when said finger support member is pivoted inline with said main unit.

10 2. The input unit according to Claim 1, wherein the plate-like structure is storable in any one of a card slot and a free space of an information processing unit.

3. The input unit according to Claim 1, further comprising:

15 at least one open-close member, pivotally coupled to said main unit, and having a switch coupled thereto;

said sensor, said main unit, said finger support member, and said open-close member defining a plate-like structure when said finger support member and said open-close member are pivoted inline with said main unit.

20 4. The input unit according to Claim 3, wherein the plate-like structure is storable in any one of a card slot and a free space of an information processing unit.

5. The input unit according to Claim 3,

having two of said open-close members wherein operation of the respective switches of said open-close members is effected by sandwiching said finger support member between two provided fingers.

5 6. The input unit according to Claim 5, wherein the plate-like structure is storable in any one of a card slot and a free space of an information processing unit.

7. The input unit according to Claim 3,

10 having a plurality of said open-close members corresponding to and placed for engagement with that number of fingers provided for performing input operations.

8. The input unit according to Claim 7, wherein the plate-like structure is storable in any one of a card slot and a free space of an information processing unit.

15 9. The input unit according to Claim 1, further comprising

at least one switch coupled to said main unit;

said switches being operable when the provided fingertips are placed between said main unit and said finger support member when said finger support member is pivoted in an open state.

20 10. The input unit according to Claim 9, wherein the plate-like structure is storable in any one of a card slot and a free space of an information processing unit.

11. The input unit according to Claim 9,

wherein said finger support member is singular and configured such that fingertip insertion is nearly vertical to the pivotal direction of said single finger support member.

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12. The input unit according to Claim 11, wherein the plate-like structure is storable in any one of a card slot and a free space of an information processing unit.

13. The input unit according to Claim 9,

wherein a plurality of said finger support members are provided in a configuration such that fingertip insertion is nearly parallel to the pivotal direction of said finger support members.

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14. The input unit according to Claim 13, wherein the plate-like structure is storable in any one of a card slot and a free space of an information processing unit.

15. Apparatus comprising:

an information processing unit; and

an input unit;

said input unit further comprising;

5 a plate-like main unit having a sensor for detecting a displacement; and

a finger support member pivotally coupled to said main unit;

said main unit and said finger support member defining a plate-like structure when said finger support member is pivoted inline with said main unit.

10 16. Apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein said input unit, when configured as said plate-like structure, is storable in any one of a card slot and a free space of said information processing unit.

17. Apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the input unit further comprises:

at least one open-close member, pivotally coupled to said main unit, and having a switch coupled thereto;

15 said main unit, said finger support member, and said open-close member defining a plate-like structure when said finger support member and said open-close member are pivoted inline with said main unit.

18. Apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein said input unit, when configured as said plate-like structure, is storable in any one of a card slot and a free space of said information processing unit.

19. Apparatus according to Claim 17,

5 having two of said open-close members wherein operation of the respective switches of said open-close members is effected by sandwiching said finger support member between two provided fingers.

10 20. Apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein said input unit, when configured as said plate-like structure, is storable in any one of a card slot and a free space of said information processing unit.

21. Apparatus according to Claim 17,

having a plurality of said open-close members corresponding to and placed for engagement with that number of fingers provided for performing input operations.

15 22. Apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein said input unit, when configured as said plate-like structure, is storable in any one of a card slot and a free space of said information processing unit.

23. Apparatus according to Claim 15, further comprising

at least one switch coupled to said main unit;

20 said switches being operable when the provided fingertips are placed between said main unit and said finger support member when said finger support member is pivoted in an open state.

24. Apparatus according to Claim 23, wherein said input unit, when configured as said plate-like structure, is storable in any one of a card slot and a free space of said information processing unit.

25. Apparatus according to Claim 23,

5 wherein said finger support member is singular and configured such that fingertip insertion is nearly vertical to the pivotal direction of said single finger support member.

26. Apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein said input unit, when configured as said plate-like structure, is storable in any one of a card slot and a free space of said information processing unit.

27. Apparatus according to Claim 23,

wherein a plurality of said finger support members are provided in a configuration such that fingertip insertion is nearly parallel to the pivotal direction of said finger support members.

28. Apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein said input unit, when configured as said plate-like structure, is storable in any one of a card slot and a free space of said information processing unit.